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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

24272 7590 06/02/2008

Gregory J. Koerner
Redwood Patent Law
1291 East Hillsdale Boulevard
Suite 205
Foster City, CA 94404

EXAMINER

CHEA, PHILIP J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/706,157

11/12/2003

Edgar A. Tu

SCEA03007US00/1666

7578

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFECTIVELY PERFORMING A STREAMLINED PHOTO DISTRIBUTION PROCEDURE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	09/02/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

24272 7590 06/02/2008

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1291 East Hillsdale Boulevard
Suite 205
Foster City, CA 94404

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/706,157 11/12/2003 Edgar A. Tu SCEA03007US00/1666 7578

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFECTIVELY PERFORMING A STREAMLINED PHOTO DISTRIBUTION PROCEDURE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1440 \$300 \$0 \$1740 09/02/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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CHEA, PHILIP J 2153 709-219000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/706,157	11/12/2003	Edgar A. Tu	SCEA03007US00/1666	7578
24272	7590	06/02/2008	EXAMINER	
Gregory J. Koerner Redwood Patent Law 1291 East Hillsdale Boulevard Suite 205 Foster City, CA 94404			CHEA, PHILIP J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	
			DATE MAILED: 06/02/2008	

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 843 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 843 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/706,157

Applicant(s)

TU ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

PHILIP J. CHEA

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed January 30, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-42,52,54-56,58-62.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Greg Koerner on April 8, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete first sentence of Abstract.

~~A system and method for effectively performing a streamlined photo distribution procedure may include a photo data source that provides photo data to a source device in an electronic network.~~

On page 10, lines 27-30 to page 11, line 1, replace with:

In the Fig. 2 embodiment, memory 220 maybe implemented as computer-readable medium to include any combination of desired storage devices, including, but limited to, read-only memory (ROM), random-access memory (RAM), and various types of non-volatile memory, such as floppy disks, memory sticks, compact disks, or hard disks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please see attached.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach nor render obvious each and every limitation of the claims. Specifically, the prior does not disclose electronic gaming devices as a source device and a target device in an electronic gaming network where the target device has a mail program to automatically detect a photo identifier in a photo message and associates

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the photo data with the target photo album and once the photo message is downloaded and associated with the album of the target device, the photo album is viewed on the target device. Furthermore, the prior art fails to teach performing only one single triggering action to initiate the photo distribution procedure where the photo is captured, and the photo message is created and sent to the target photo album in an automatic manner.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHILIP J. CHEA whose telephone number is (571)272-3951. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00 (1st Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Glenton B. Burgess/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2153

Philip J Chea
Examiner
Art Unit 2153

PJC 4/9/08

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1. (Currently Amended) A system for performing a streamlined photo distribution procedure in an electronic network, comprising:

a photo data source configured to provide photo data to a source device in said electronic network, said photo data being added to a source photo album of said source device;

a source photo manager of said source device configured to designate a message target for receiving said photo data from said source device;

a source mail program of said source device configured to automatically receive said photo data from said source photo manager, said source mail program automatically creating a photo message that includes said photo data and photo identifier means to request a special handling of said photo data, said photo identifier means associating said photo data with a target photo album, said source mail program automatically transmitting said photo message over said electronic network;

a target mail program of a target device corresponding to said message target, said target mail program downloading said photo message from said electronic network, said target mail program automatically detecting said photo identifier means in said photo message; and

a target photo manager of said target device configured to receive said photo data from said target mail program whenever said photo identifier means is detected, said target photo manager automatically associating said photo data with said target photo album of said target device, said target photo album being viewed on said target device, said streamlined photo distribution procedure being implemented by utilizing a one-click technique in which a system user performs only one single triggering action to initiate said streamlined photo distribution procedure, said source device responsively capturing said photo data, creating said photo message, and sending said photo message to said target photo album in an automatic manner, said source device and said target device both being implemented as electronic gaming devices in an electronic gaming network.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo data source is implemented as an electronic camera device that communicates with said source device by utilizing at least one of a wireless and a hard-wired communication technique.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said source device is implemented as a consumer-electronics entertainment device that communicates with said target device through said electronic network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein said consumer-electronics entertainment device is network-enabled to communicate over said electronic network, and wherein respective stand-alone functionalities of said electronic camera device and said consumer-electronics entertainment device are combined to effectively perform said streamlined photo distribution procedure in said electronic network.

5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein said consumer-electronics entertainment device is configured to include a hard-disk-drive memory device storing one or more electronic gaming programs, said consumer-electronics entertainment device being further configured to include a broadband navigator and a network adapter for communicating over said electronic network.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo identifier means includes a special photo identifier tag that said source mail program creates as part of a message header of said photo message to thereby identify said photo message as containing said photo data for automatically storing into said target photo album by said target photo manager.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said electronic network includes an Internet network, said source device communicating with said target device via said Internet network.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said electronic network includes at least one of an intranet network and a peer-to-peer network, said source device communicating with said target device via said at least one of said intranet network and said peer-to-peer network.

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9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said target photo album is configured to store and display at least one set of said photo data, said at least one set of said photo data including image data corresponding to a captured photographic image and optional ancillary data related to said image data, said target device utilizing said photo manager to selectively organize and manage said at least one set of said photo data in said photo album.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said source photo manager of said source device initially performs a message-target pre-selection procedure to designate said message target for receiving said photo data from said source device prior to obtaining said photo data from said photo data source.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said source photo manager of said source device initiates a streamlined one-click transmission procedure in which said source photo manager captures said photo data from said photo data source, said source photo manager then automatically sending said photo data to said source mail program.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said source mail program automatically attaches said photo data and said photo identifier means to said photo message, said source mail program then automatically transmitting said photo message to a network server in said electronic network for retrieval by said message target.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said source photo manager of said source device initiates a streamlined two-click transmission procedure in which said source photo manager captures said photo data from said photo data source, said source photo manager then automatically generating a message-target user interface for designating said message target for receiving said photo data.

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14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said source photo manager of said source device manages a message-target selection procedure to designate said message target for receiving said photo data from said source device, said source photo manager then automatically sending said photo data to said source mail program.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein said source mail program automatically attaches said photo data and said photo identifier means to said photo message, said source mail program then automatically transmitting said photo message to a network server in said electronic network for retrieval by said message target.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said target mail program of said target device performs a log-in procedure for communicating with a network server of said electronic network, said target mail program then downloading said photo message from said network server to said target device.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein a special photo-message reader of said target mail program decodes a message header of said photo message to determine whether said photo identifier means is detected as part of said photo message.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein said target mail program automatically provides said photo data to said target photo manager whenever said photo identifier means is detected, said target photo manager automatically storing said photo data into said target photo album of said target device.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said source photo manager designates a plurality of message targets for receiving said photo data from said source device, said source mail program of said source device automatically transmitting a plurality of photo messages over said electronic network to said plurality of message targets, a plurality of target devices automatically storing respective copies of said photo data into corresponding target photo albums.

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20. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo message is alternately implemented to distribute at least one of audio data, graphics data, video data, and text data instead of said photo data.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for performing a streamlined photo distribution procedure in an electronic network, comprising the steps of:

providing photo data from a photo data source to a source device in said electronic network, said photo data being added to a source photo album of said source device;

designating a message target for receiving said photo data from said source device by using a source photo manager of said source device;

utilizing a source mail program of said source device to automatically receive said photo data from said source photo manager, said source mail program automatically creating a photo message that includes said photo data and photo identifier means to request a special handling of said photo data, said photo identifier means associating said photo data with a target photo album, said source mail program automatically transmitting said photo message over said electronic network;

downloading said photo message from said electronic network by utilizing a target mail program of a target device corresponding to said message target, said target mail program automatically detecting said photo identifier means in said photo message; and

receiving said photo data from said target mail program by utilizing a target photo manager of said target device whenever said photo identifier means is detected, said target photo manager automatically associating said photo data with said target photo album of said target device, said target photo album being viewed on said target device, said streamlined photo distribution procedure being implemented by utilizing a one-click technique in which a system user performs only one single triggering action to initiate said streamlined photo distribution procedure, said source device responsively capturing said photo data, creating said photo message, and sending said photo message to said target photo album in an automatic manner, said source device and said target device both being implemented as electronic gaming devices in an electronic gaming network.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said photo data source is implemented as an electronic camera device that communicates with said source device by utilizing at least one of a wireless and a hard-wired communication technique.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said source device is implemented as a consumer-electronics entertainment device that communicates with said target device through said electronic network.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein said consumer-electronics entertainment device is network-enabled to communicate over said electronic network, and wherein respective stand-alone functionalities of said electronic camera device and said consumer-electronics entertainment device are combined to effectively perform said streamlined photo distribution procedure in said electronic network.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein said consumer-electronics entertainment device is configured to include a hard-disk-drive memory device storing one or more electronic gaming programs, said consumer-electronics entertainment device being further configured to include a broadband navigator and a network adapter for communicating over said electronic network.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said photo identifier means includes a special photo identifier tag that said source mail program creates as part of a message header of said photo message to thereby identify said photo message as containing said photo data for automatically storing into said target photo album by said target photo manager.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said electronic network includes an Internet network, said source device communicating with said target device via said Internet network.

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28. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said electronic network includes at least one of an intranet network and a peer-to-peer network, said source device communicating with said target device via said at least one of said intranet network and said peer-to-peer network.

29. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said target photo album is configured to store and display at least one set of said photo data, said at least one set of said photo data including image data corresponding to a captured photographic image and optional ancillary data related to said image data, said target device utilizing said photo manager to selectively organize and manage said at least one set of said photo data in said photo album.

30. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said source photo manager of said source device initially performs a message-target pre-selection procedure to designate said message target for receiving said photo data from said source device prior to obtaining said photo data from said photo data source.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein said source photo manager of said source device initiates a streamlined one-click transmission procedure in which said source photo manager captures said photo data from said photo data source, said source photo manager then automatically sending said photo data to said source mail program.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein said source mail program automatically attaches said photo data and said photo identifier means to said photo message, said source mail program then automatically transmitting said photo message to a network server in said electronic network for retrieval by said message target.

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33. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said source photo manager of said source device initiates a streamlined two-click transmission procedure in which said source photo manager captures said photo data from said photo data source, said source photo manager then automatically generating a message-target user interface for designating said message target for receiving said photo data.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said source photo manager of said source device manages a message-target selection procedure to designate said message target for receiving said photo data from said source device, said source photo manager then automatically sending said photo data to said source mail program.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein said source mail program automatically attaches said photo data and said photo identifier means to said photo message, said source mail program then automatically transmitting said photo message to a network server in said electronic network for retrieval by said message target.

36. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said target mail program of said target device performs a log-in procedure for communicating with a network server of said electronic network, said target mail program then downloading said photo message from said network server to said target device.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein a special photo-message reader of said target mail program decodes a message header of said photo message to determine whether said photo identifier means is detected as part of said photo message.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein said target mail program automatically provides said photo data to said target photo manager whenever said photo identifier means is detected, said target photo manager automatically storing said photo data into said target photo album of said target device.

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39. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said source photo manager designates a plurality of message targets for receiving said photo data from said source device, said source mail program of said source device automatically transmitting a plurality of photo messages over said electronic network to said plurality of message targets, a plurality of target devices automatically storing respective copies of said photo data into corresponding target photo albums.

40. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said photo message is alternately implemented to distribute at least one of audio data, graphics data, video data, and text data instead of said photo data.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising program instructions for performing a streamlined photo distribution procedure in an electronic network, by performing the steps of:

providing photo data from a photo data source to a source device in said electronic network, said photo data being added to a source photo album of said source device;

designating a message target for receiving said photo data from said source device by using a source photo manager of said source device;

utilizing a source mail program of said source device to automatically receive said photo data from said source photo manager, said source mail program automatically creating a photo message that includes said photo data and photo identifier means to request a special handling of said photo data, said photo identifier means associating said photo data with a target photo album, said source mail program automatically transmitting said photo message over said electronic network;

downloading said photo message from said electronic network by utilizing a target mail program of a target device corresponding to said message target, said target mail program automatically detecting said photo identifier means in said photo message; and

receiving said photo data from said target mail program by utilizing a target photo manager of said target device whenever said photo identifier means is detected, said target photo manager automatically associating said photo data with said target photo album of said target device, said target photo album

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being viewed on said target device, said streamlined photo distribution procedure being implemented by utilizing a one-click technique in which a system user performs only one single triggering action to initiate said streamlined photo distribution procedure, said source device responsively capturing said photo data, creating said photo message, and sending said photo message to said target photo album in an automatic manner, said source device and said target device both being implemented as electronic gaming devices in an electronic gaming network.

42. (Currently Amended) A system for performing a streamlined photo distribution procedure in an electronic network, comprising:

means for providing photo data to a source device in said electronic network, said photo data being added to a source photo album of said source device;

means for designating a message target for receiving said photo data from said source device;

means for receiving said photo data automatically from said means for designating, said means for receiving automatically creating a photo message that includes said photo data and photo identifier

means to request special handling of said photo data, said photo identifier means associating said photo data with a target photo album, said means for receiving automatically transmitting said photo message over said electronic network;

means for downloading said photo message from said electronic network, said means for downloading automatically detecting said photo identifier means in said photo message; and

means for accessing said photo data from said means for downloading whenever said photo identifier means is detected, said means for accessing automatically associating said photo data with said target photo album of said messaging target, said target photo album being viewed on said messaging target,

said streamlined photo distribution procedure being implemented by utilizing a one-click technique in which a system user performs only one single triggering action to initiate said streamlined photo distribution procedure, said source device responsively capturing said photo data, creating said photo message, and sending said photo message to said target photo album in an automatic manner, said

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source device and said message target both being implemented as electronic gaming devices in an electronic gaming network.

Claims 43-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A system for performing a streamlined photo distribution procedure in an electronic network, comprising:

a portable electronic device configured to provide photo data to a source device via a communications network, said photo data being added to a source photo album of said source device, said portable electronic device automatically creating a special identifier tag to designate said photo data for said streamlined photo distribution procedure;

a source photo manager of said source device configured to receive said photo data and said special identifier tag from said portable electronic device via said communications network, said source photo manager designating a message target group for receiving said photo data from said source device; and

a source mail program of said source device configured to automatically receive said photo data from said source data manager, said source mail program automatically creating a photo message that includes said photo data and a photo identifier tag to request a special handling of said photo data, said photo identifier tag associating said photo data with a target photo album, said source mail program automatically transmitting said photo message over said electronic network to said message target group, said photo data being viewed on respective target devices of said message target group, said streamlined photo distribution procedure being implemented by utilizing a one-click technique in which a system user performs only one single triggering action to initiate said streamlined photo distribution procedure, said source device responsively capturing said photo data, creating said photo message, and sending said photo message to said target photo album in an automatic manner, said source device and said respective target devices being implemented as electronic gaming devices in an electronic gaming network.

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53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo distribution procedure automatically synchronizes said source photo album and said target photo album to contain identical digital photographs.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo identifier means is created concurrently with sending said photo message to said target device, said photo identifier means not being created beforehand.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said source device and said target device are implemented by utilizing a substantially similar device configuration.

57. (Cancelled).

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said source device and said photo data source are two separate non-integral electronic devices.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said source device transmits said photo message directly to said target device through a peer-to-peer connection that does not include any intermediate server device.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo data source transmits said photo data directly to said source device through a direct electrical connection that does not include any intermediate server device.

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61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo message transmits auxiliary data that includes text data and audio data.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said photo data is transmitted in a full-resolution format as originally captured by said photo data source.